

# Peter and Tabitha

## Lesson 10



**Scripture:** Acts 9:36-42

**Bible Memory:** Acts 5:42

“They continued to tell the Good News—that Jesus is the Christ.” (*ICB*)

“They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (*KJV*)

**Focus:** ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.











### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

“What a good helper you are!” These words are music to a child’s ears. They should be music to ours as well. What child of God does not long to hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant”? Though perhaps not noticed here on earth, remember that your work done in the name of the Lord and for His glory does not go unnoticed. The Lord knows who His helpers are.

### Bible Background for the Teacher

Joppa was the principal seaport of Palestine and was located on a plain along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Tabitha (“Dorcas” in Greek) was a true servant, always doing good and helping those in need. Peter was in the nearby town of Lydda and had performed miracles there. Tabitha’s friends may have expected a miracle, or they may have simply wanted Peter’s comfort. They received both.

## Lesson 10 at a Glance

<p><b>1 GETTING STARTED</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore helping</i>.</p>	 <b>Quick Step</b> How We Help   Happy Helper Hands   We Are the Church (unit center)	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 7 Helping photo cards</li> <li>• <i>Make-n-Share</i> for lesson 10 and stickers</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> <li>• jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers</li> <li>• unit center supplies (see unit 2 pages), dusting cloths, spray bottles of water, paper towels</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY</b> Use all these activities to help children <i>tell what happened when Peter helped Tabitha</i>.</p>	 <b>Sing and Pray</b>   <b>Bible Time</b> Peter and Tabitha   <b>Bible Review</b>   <b>Bible Memory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD, Happy Helper Hands made in Getting Started, <i>Resources</i> sheet 7 Bible story sequence cards 10a-10c, <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CD player, Bible</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 GROW AND GO</b> Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>name ways they can help others learn about Jesus</i>.</p>	 <b>Quick Step</b> Bible Memory Game   Yes, I Will Go   Helping Grab Bag  <p><b>Closing the Hour</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD</li> <li>• none</li> <li>• <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• CD player, musical instruments</li> <li>• pillowcase, Bible, cell phone, Bible story picture book, picture of Jesus, cross necklace, adhesive bandage</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>

# Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore helping.

## Welcome

- Use a Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

## Quick Step How We Help

**SAY: In our Bible story today, Peter helps a woman. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus too. Let's explore helping. Our pictures will show ways to help others.**

Show one of the cards. Ask a child to name the way someone is helping or being helped. Continue discussing each card. Then secretly show a card to a pair of children to act out how someone is helping or being helped. One child can be the helper and the other child pretend to be the person being helped. After they act out the situation, let the rest of the children select the card that was acted out.

**ASK: Who do you know who helps people?  
What does he or she do to help others?  
Who do you help?**

### **Epecially for 4s!**



Look at a card and identify the helping activity. Show a way to act out that helping situation. Have children act it out together.

## Happy Helper Hands

**SAY: We are happy when someone helps us learn about Jesus. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus. Let's make Happy Helper Hands to wave as we talk today about helping others.**

Have the children color and cut out the hand shapes. Glue the hands back-to-back on a craft stick. Talk about ways people help at home, at school, at church, and anywhere else the children go. Explain that the Happy Helper Hands will be used during Bible Time.

**ASK: Can you name someone who helps you?  
Can you tell me someone who helps you learn about Jesus?**

## We Are the Church (unit center)

**SAY: Today we will learn about people who help others learn about Jesus. We are the church. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus. Let's explore helping by cleaning our worship center.**

Have the children clean the unit center, using the cleaning supplies. As the children clean, talk about helping. **Cleaning is one way to help at home, at school, and at our church building.** Guide children to discuss other ways they can help. If time allows, go to the worship center of your church building and let the children wipe down the pews (or chairs).

**ASK: How do you help at home? at school?  
What do you need help with?  
Who helps you?**

## Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

**Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.**

### Materials

Resources sheet 7  
Helping photo cards



### Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 10 and stickers, jumbo craft sticks, blunt-tip scissors, glue sticks, washable markers



### Materials

unit center supplies (see unit 2 pages), dusting cloths, spray bottles of water, paper towels



### Something More!

Spread shaving cream on the tables and let children draw pictures of things they use to help others. Then let them wipe off the tables.

### Cleanup

Talk about helping as you clean. Every child can help. Praise each child for helping.



## Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

# Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

**2** Use all these activities to help children **tell what happened when Peter helped Tabitha.**

### Materials

Resources CD tracks 3 and 6, CD player



### Materials

Happy Helper Hands from Getting Started, Resources sheet 7 Bible story sequence cards 10a–10c, Bible



### Teaching Tips

Point to the children when they are to wave their Happy Helper Hands.

If your children know Tabitha by her Greek name Dorcas, use that name throughout the lesson.

### Materials

Bible, Resources sheet 7 Bible story sequence cards 10a–10c



### Materials

Resources CD Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable file, Bible



## Sing and Pray

Sing “Yes, I Will Go” and “They Continued to Tell.”

PRAY: **Dear God, we are so glad we can learn about Jesus. Thank You for helping us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

SAY: **Did you help someone at your house last week? What did you do when you helped?** Let children respond. **Today we will hear what happened when Peter helped a woman named Tabitha.**

## Bible Time

Have children wave their Happy Helper Hands each time you say *Tabitha*. Use the cards as you tell the story. Show Acts 9. SAY: **In the book of Acts, chapter 9, we read about a woman named Tabitha.** Children wave their Happy Helper Hands. Show 10a. **Tabitha lived in the town of Joppa. She was a follower of Jesus. She helped women who had no husbands. She helped people who had little money. Tabitha made coats and other clothes to keep these people warm.**

**One day Tabitha became so sick, she died! Other followers of Jesus were very sad. They sent for Peter. “Hurry, please come!” the friends said.**

**When Peter got there, he went to Tabitha’s room. The women in the room showed Peter the clothes that Tabitha had made for them. They were very sad and crying because they loved Tabitha so much.**

Show 10b. **Peter sent everyone out of the room. Then Peter knelt down and prayed to God. What do you think he asked God?** Let children respond. **When he was finished praying, Peter said, “Tabitha, stand up!”** Show 10c. **Tabitha opened her eyes. She got up. She was alive!**

**Peter called Tabitha’s friends. They were so happy that God used Peter to bring Tabitha back to life! They told everyone about the miracle, and many people believed in Jesus.** Have children cheer.

## Bible Review

SAY: ♥ **We can help others learn about Jesus.** Let each child choose one of the story cards and tell something he remembers about who is shown on the card. Mix up the cards, and have children place the cards in order. Let each child teach part of the Bible story to the other children.

ASK: **How did Tabitha help other people?** (She made clothes for them and helped people who had little money. She helped people learn about Jesus.)

**What happened to Tabitha?** (She became sick and died.)

**How did Peter help?** (Peter came, prayed to God, and used God’s power to bring Tabitha back to life.)

## Bible Memory Acts 5:42

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Open the Bible and point to Acts 5:42. SAY: ♥ **We can help others learn about Jesus. Our Bible Memory reminds us to tell others about Jesus. Let’s say our Bible Memory together.** Group children into pairs, facing each other and repeating the verse while doing the motions.

## Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can help others learn about Jesus.**

### Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

### Quick Step Bible Memory Game

**SAY: Today we learned how Peter and Tabitha helped others know about Jesus and His power. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus too. Our Bible Memory tells us to tell about Jesus. Let's practice telling about Jesus.**

Read the Bible Memory and divide children into small groups. Have each group sit in a circle. Guide the first child in each group to ask the second child, "Can you tell me about Jesus?" Have the second child respond, "Jesus is the Christ." Then the second child will turn to the third child and repeat the question. The third child will respond. Guide children to continue this pattern around the circle.

**ASK: What is a way you can tell someone about Jesus?  
Who will you tell about Jesus this week?**

#### *Especially for 4s!*

One at a time, name each child and ask, "\_\_\_\_ (name of person), can you tell me about Jesus?" The child can respond, "Jesus is the Christ."

### Yes, I Will Go

**SAY: Today we learned how Peter and Tabitha helped others know about Jesus and His power. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus too. Let's play our instruments as we sing a song about helping others learn about Jesus.**

Let the children choose an instrument to play. After you sing "Yes, I Will Go," talk with the children about what it means to go with their feet, go with their hands, and go with their friends.

**ASK: How do you help others learn about Jesus?  
How can you help with your feet?  
How do you help with your friends?**

### Helping Grab Bag



**SAY: Today we learned how Peter and Tabitha helped others know about Jesus and His power. ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus when we are at home, at school, or just playing with our friends. Let's explore ways we can help others learn about Jesus.**

Put all the items inside the pillowcase. Guide children one by one to reach into the pillowcase and pull out one item. Have them name a way they can use that item to help others learn about Jesus. Return items to the pillowcase and repeat until each child has had at least one turn.

**ASK: How can you use this item to help someone learn about Jesus?  
Who can you tell about Jesus?**

### Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and a copy of *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to help their children with the Color Me Helpful activity. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

#### Materials

Bible



#### Teaching Tip

If you have a smaller class, children can do the activity with partners, rather than in small groups.

#### Materials

Resources CD track 3,  
CD player, musical  
instruments



#### Materials

pillowcase, Bible, cell  
phone, Bible story picture  
book, picture of Jesus, cross  
necklace, adhesive bandage



# Peter and Tabitha

## Lesson 10 Extra Hour



**Scripture:** Acts 9:36-42

**Bible Memory:** Acts 5:42

“They continued to tell the Good News—that Jesus is the Christ.” (*ICB*)

“They ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.” (*KJV*)

**Focus:** ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

“What a good helper you are!” These words are music to a child’s ears. They should be music to ours as well. What child of God does not long to hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant”? Though perhaps not noticed here on earth, remember that your work done in the name of the Lord and for His glory does not go unnoticed. The Lord knows who His helpers are.

### Bible Background for the Teacher

Joppa was the principal seaport of Palestine and was located on a plain along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Tabitha (“Dorcas” in Greek) was a true servant, always doing good and helping those in need. Peter was in the nearby town of Lydda and had performed miracles there. Tabitha’s friends may have expected a miracle, or they may have simply wanted Peter’s comfort. They received both.

## Lesson 10 at a Glance—Extra Hour

### 1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *explore helping*.



Game

**Quick Step**  
Follow the Helper



Food

Helping Snack



Family Living

Being a Helper

### HeartShaper Materials

- none
- none
- none

### Other Materials

- none
- simple snack, small pitcher of water, plates, cups, napkins, wet paper towels
- family living center supplies (see activity)

### 2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell what happened when Peter helped Tabitha*.



Sing & Pray

**More! Sing and Pray**



Bible Time

**Bible Time—Another Way!**



Bible Review

**More! Bible Review**



Bible Memory

**More! Bible Memory**

- *Resources* CD, *Teaching Picture* 10, *Resources* CD “Here Is Tabitha” rhyme and Unit 2 Bible Memory Motions printable files

- CD player, stack of folded clothes, tissues, 2 Bibles, shirt

### 3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children *name ways they can help others learn about Jesus*.



Scout

**Quick Step**  
Scout Puppet Story



Puzzles

Color Me Helpful

**Saying Good-bye**

- none
- *Heart Tugs* issue 10
- *Heart Tugs* issue 10

- Scout puppet, dark glasses, rolled-up newspaper
- red crayons
- none

# More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore helping.

## Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a name tag.
- Have children practice helping each other. Bring a jacket and let children take turns helping each other put it on.
- Serve a snack. Follow your congregation's policy for restroom breaks.

## Quick Step Follow the Helper

SAY: ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus. Let's play a game called Follow the Helper to show ways we can help others.

Lead children around the room (as in the game Follow the Leader) and have them mimic you as you act out helping situations. (Examples: praying for someone, sharing a toy, giving money, stirring a bowl of food)

ASK: **Who will fix a bowl of soup for someone who is hungry?**

**Can you help your grandparent lift something?**

**When do you like to help at home?**

**Especially for 4s!**



Some children will need to perform actions they can directly identify with the concept of helping. Include actions such as picking up toys, putting grocery items in a cupboard, sweeping a floor.

## Helping Snack

SAY: **Today we are talking about helping.** ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus. Let's practice helping one another as we enjoy a snack together.

Guide children to help serve, eat, and clean up after a snack. Assign various jobs to the children. Some children can help serve the snacks by pouring drinks, putting out napkins, preparing the snack. Some children can pray for the hands of those who made the snack. Other children can clean up after the snack by throwing away trash and wiping the tables.

ASK: **How did you help with our snack?**

**How do you help at home? at school?**

## Being a Helper

SAY: ♥ We can help others learn about Jesus. We can be helpers wherever we are. We can help at home, at school, in our neighborhoods, and with our friends. Let's pretend we are helping at home.

Have children play-act helping in everyday situations. (Examples: clean the house, wash dishes, rake leaves, fold towels, change a doll's clothes) Talk about ways the children help their parents, teachers, and friends.

ASK: **How can you help your mom? dad? teacher? friend?**

**Who will you help to learn about Jesus?**

**What can you do to help that person?**

## Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

### Materials

none



### Teaching Tip

Perform each action long enough for each child to perform and understand what is being done. Explain how that action could help others learn about Jesus.

### Materials

simple snack, small pitcher of water, plates, cups, napkins, wet paper towels



### Teaching Tips

Check food allergies before serving snacks, and have an alternative one available.

Make snack bags—one to keep and one to give away.

### Materials

family living center supplies



### Teaching Tip

See the Learning Centers file on the *Resources* CD Teacher Helps for suggested supplies to be used in the family living center.



## Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

# More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2

Use all these activities to help children **tell what happened when Peter helped Tabitha.**

### Materials

Resources CD track 3,  
CD player, *Teaching*  
Picture 10



## More! Sing and Pray

Sing “Yes, I Will Go.”

PRAY: **Dear God, we are happy that You teach us how to help others. Please remind us to be good helpers. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Show the picture. SAY: **“Tabitha, stand up!” That’s what Peter said. Say the sentence with me. “Tabitha, stand up!”** Have children do so. **Listen and you will hear why Peter wanted Tabitha to stand up.**

### Materials

stack of folded clothes,  
tissues, 2 Bibles



## Bible Time—Another Way!

Before Bible story time, place the props in three areas of the room. Move to each area as you tell the story. SAY: **Today’s Bible story is about some people who were helpers. Our story is from the book of Acts, chapter 9.** Show Acts 9. **When we talk about each person, we will move around. Maybe ♥ we can help others learn about Jesus just as they did.**

Move to the clothes. **Tabitha was one of Jesus’ followers who lived in Joppa. She helped by doing good things for women whose husbands had died and for others who had little money.**

Move to tissues. **Then something sad happened. Tabitha became very sick and died. Tabitha’s friends were sad and sent a message to Peter, one of Jesus’ helpers. “Hurry, please come to us!” they said. Maybe the friends wanted Peter to pray with them, make them feel happier, or help Tabitha.**

Move to Bible. **The Bible tells us that Peter wanted to help, so he went to Joppa. The friends showed Peter some of the clothes Tabitha had made for them. Peter sent everyone out of the room. Then he knelt down and prayed to God.** Have children kneel and bow heads. **When he was finished praying, Peter said, “Tabitha, stand up!”**

**Tabitha opened her eyes, looked at Peter, and sat up. Then Peter helped her stand. Tabitha’s friends were so happy! They told everyone what had happened, and many people believed in Jesus’ great power.**

### Teaching Tips

At the various story areas, use the *Resources* sheet 7 Bible story sequence cards 10a–10c along with the suggested props.

If your children know Tabitha by her Greek name Dorcas, use that name throughout the lesson.



### Materials

Resources CD “Here Is Tabitha” rhyme printable file



## More! Bible Review

Before class, print a copy of the rhyme from the CD. Do the rhyme with the children, repeating it several times until the children learn the words and motions.

ASK: **What did Tabitha do to show she loved Jesus?** (She helped women who were widows and people who had little money.)

**How did Peter help Tabitha?** (He prayed. He used Jesus’ power to bring Tabitha back to life.)

### Materials

Resources CD Unit 2  
Bible Memory Motions  
printable file, Bible, shirt



## More! Bible Memory Acts 5:42

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD. SAY: **Tabitha helped people learn about Jesus. Let’s pretend we are Tabitha giving clothes to people as we say our Bible Memory and tell about Jesus.** Show Acts 5:42. Hand the shirt to a child as you say the verse. Have the child hand the shirt to another child as he says the verse. Continue until all children have said the Bible Memory. Then repeat the verse together as you do the motions.

### Teaching Tip

Make copies of the Bible Memory Poster on the *Resources* CD. Let children color the letters and decorate their posters with stickers.

## More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **name ways they can help others learn about Jesus.**

### Focus

♥ We can help others learn about Jesus.

### Quick Step “Looking for Ways to Help”

Scout appears, wearing dark glasses, turning from side to side, giving everyone a careful look. He appears to be looking for someone or something. SAY: **Scout, what are you looking for?** He whispers to you. **Well, that didn’t take long, did it?** Scout shakes head no. **Boys and girls, Scout was looking for ways to help. And he found three ways he could help. Let’s see if you can guess what they are.**

**When Scout woke up this morning, he saw a newspaper lying on the sidewalk instead of near the front door of the house. What did Scout do?** Children guess. **Yes, he picked it up and dropped it right by the door!** Help Scout pick up the newspaper to show how he did it.

**Next, he saw a kitten way up in a tree, crying! What did Scout do?** Children guess. **He stood right by the tree barking and looking up until someone came to help the kitten.** Scout barks.

**Then Scout saw a little boy about to fall off the back porch. What did Scout do?** Children guess. **He ran onto the porch and grabbed the little boy by his sleeve and pulled him away from the edge.** Scout bites your clothing and tugs. **Scout, you are a great helper. We will look for ways we can help others too. And ♥ we can help others learn about Jesus.**

ASK: **What can you do that Scout cannot do to help others?** Be sure to include “tell about Jesus.”

**How will you help others learn about Jesus?**

### Materials

Scout puppet, dark glasses, rolled-up newspaper



### Color Me Helpful

SAY: **Today we learned what happened when Peter helped Tabitha.**

♥ **We can help others learn about Jesus. What letter does the word *help* start with?** Let children respond. **Let’s do a puzzle that uses the letter *h*.** Guide children to color in red each space marked with a lowercase *h*. When they have finished, the name *Jesus* will be visible.

ASK: **Can you guess what the red spaces spell?** (Jesus)

**How can you be a helper like Tabitha and tell others about Jesus?**

#### Especially for 4s!



For children who need help with letter recognition, place a red dot in each space they should color in red. Explain that they are to color only in the spaces you have marked.

### Saying Good-bye

- While you wait for parents, play Follow the Helper again or repeat the “Here Is Tabitha” finger play from More! Bible Review.
- Be sure children have projects made in class and this week’s *Heart Tugs*. Encourage parents to talk with their children about ways to help others learn about Jesus. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).

### Materials

*Heart Tugs* issue 10, red crayons



### Cleanup

Sing “Cleanup Song,” found on the *Resources* CD Teacher Helps, as you encourage children to join you in cleaning the room.

